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2001

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4-10-2001

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "04/10/2001 - EIU takes Additional Steps to Serve Transfer Students" (2001). 2001. 86.
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NEWS

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01-92

April 10, 2001

For Immediate Release:

EIU TAKES ADDITIONAL STEPS TO SERVE TRANSFER STUDENTS

CHARLESTON – More than 60 percent of all Illinois students pursuing higher education are doing so – at least initially – at one of approximately 50 community colleges located around the state.

With these students in mind, Eastern Illinois University has taken steps, including open houses and the hiring of an additional admissions counselor specializing in transfer students, to further enhance its transfer process.

Larry J. Larvick, former vice president of student services at Lake Land College in Mattoon, came out of retirement in order to assist transfer student services at Eastern in attracting and retaining students who transfer in from community colleges and other universities.

While at Lake Land, Larvick -- who has worked with college-aged students and higher education for more than 30 years -- administered and supervised all student services functions, including research and studies on the success of the college's transfer students at senior institutions. He remains well-versed in the areas of student recruitment and retention.

Currently, approximately 40 percent of Eastern's student population is composed of transfer students – a population the university holds in great esteem.

"These students arrive as learners, ready to continue their journey toward graduation while providing leadership to our younger students," says EIU President Carol D. Surles.

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

According to Larvick, "Community colleges are a good access point to higher education." In addition to the convenience and cost savings they provide, they are recognized for their superior one-on-one service to students and successful graduation rates.

Eastern's goal is to continue to attract these students from community colleges across the state and elsewhere who have decided to seek degrees beyond what a community college delivers.

"Part of my job is to come up with additional innovative ways in which Eastern can continue to market itself to community colleges," Larvick said.

As is true with all of Eastern's admissions counselors, Larvick spends a lot of time on the road, visiting with students, faculty and career counselors at the various community colleges throughout Illinois. The information they derive from these visits, and from analysis of historical data such as performance assessments, assists Eastern's staff in planning for transfer students' arrival on campus and ensuring that the enrollment and transfer process is as simple as possible for the in-coming students.

"We want to discover the ways in which EIU can make the transfer process as smooth as possible -- all the way from orientation to registration," Larvick said. "We want to provide our incoming transfer students with the same services that community college students are accustomed to. We want them to be able to flow right into academic life here at EIU. "

Rita Pearson, assistant director of admissions/transfer coordinator, concurs. "We know that our transfer students have worked hard to earn those credits at another college or university. Eastern recognizes that effort and accepts all-college level transfer credit from institutions accredited by the North Central Association or other regional accrediting agencies."

She added that Eastern participates in the Illinois Articulation Initiative, a statewide agreement that allows transfer of the completed Illinois General Education Core Curriculum between any of more than 100 participating institutions within the state.

Transfer students, as well as high school students interested in attending Eastern, are encouraged to attend an open house on either Saturday, April 21, or Friday, July 20. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. each day in the university's University Ballroom, located in the University Union.

No reservations are necessary and parking is available in any student or staff lot.

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TRANSFER STUDENTS

Traditionally, several hundred students, along with their families, attend each of Eastern's open houses. Participants have the opportunity to meet with faculty members and student service personnel from various academic departments on campus. Students also will be able to tour the campus and residence halls.

The tours offer free meal tickets in order for students and their families to sample food in one of the university's several Dining Services facilities located across campus.

Anyone wishing detailed information on either of the two open houses should contact the Admissions Office at (217) 581-2223 or 1(800) 252-5711, or visit Eastern's website: <http://www.eiu.edu>.